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## GENERAL NOTES.

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The Copley Medal of the Royal Society has been awarded to Dr. G. W. HILL for his researches in mathematical astronomy.

"Dr. HILL's work in the branch of astronomy that is farthest removed from popular view, and his exacting application of the higher mathematics to problems requiring the most rigid and complicated demonstration and proof, have done much to facilitate recent progress and to place that progress upon a sure basis."

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*A Bright Meteor.*—On December 12th at 6:40 P. M., Pacific Standard Time, a very brilliant meteor was seen by Miss NELLIE FORD and Miss MARJORIE DRISCOLL, students in general astronomy at Stanford University. It appeared about ten degrees west of the Pole Star, moved very slowly westward and disappeared behind the western hills after being visible about half a minute (possibly exaggerated). The meteor was many times brighter than *Venus*, and its trail was visible for the whole length of its path for ten or fifteen seconds after the meteor disappeared.

S. D. T.

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The library of the late Professor NEWCOMB has been purchased by Mr. JOHN CLAFLIN for the College of the City of New York.

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Under a resolution of the Board of Directors of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific passed July 13, 1907, the by-laws of the Society, together with the statutes governing the bestowal of the Bruce Medal and the rules relating to the Donohoe Comet-Medal, have been reprinted in this number of the Publications. Amendments to the by-laws made since they were last printed in 1897 have been incorporated.

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Dr. KARL SCHWARZSCHILD, professor of astronomy at Göttingen, has been appointed director of the Astrophysical Observatory at Potsdam.